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FRANKI HEZMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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UPFRONT

■ WELLS OF HOPE

Laser level needed to build schools

WAYNE CAMPBELL

For Postmedia Network

Hey buddy can you spare a laser level?

Wells of Hope volunteers, Ben Obdeyn and Frank Memme, hope an appeal will ease construction chores on two small schools in a pair of poor Guatemalan villages.

The instrument helps builders ensure walls are plumb and flooring and ceilings level.

When working on a mountain side, it's a special challenge, said Memme.

"Nothing is level."

The experienced builders volunteered for few weeks to put up the three- to five-room schools.

"We have one laser level but need a second," to work on both schools at the same time, said Obdeyn. "It has to be small enough to put into a suitcase."

The schools are only eight kilometres apart. "But it takes more than an hour to go up, down and around a mountain," said Memme. Two levels would accelerate the projects.

For Obdeyn, this is his 30th work visit to Guatemala. Memme has gone "12 or 13 times."

Niagara-based Wells of Hope primarily drills wells to supply clean water to poor villages in the mountains of Guatemala.

Initially more than 10 years, the nonprofit volunteer agency has built 12 wells and installed piping systems to serve more than 53,000 people around the communities of Jalapa and Jutupa. The projects



WAYNE CAMPBELL/

SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Frank Memme, left, and Ben Obdeyn practise for a Wells of Hope school construction project in Guatemala. They are asking for donation of a small laser level.

replace dirty water drawn from contaminated streams.

The two new schools will bring to 17 Wells of Hope has built 2,350 students.

While they started out building wells, Obdeyn said, they found other needs to meet. Schools, health centre and other forms of commu-

nity services such as bridges and cooking stoves became part of the program.

Children, who used to walk for hours to get water from polluted streams, now have time to go to school. But they lacked well-built schools.

Niagara school children have helped by donating

backpacks to Wells of Hope filled with supplies for Guatemalan students and by collecting coins to build schools.

Wells of Hope maintains a camp for volunteers who pay their way from Canada to help for two weeks. They work on projects such as drilling, building schools, roads and

bridges or providing dental and other health care.

For Obdeyn, this is his second tool request.

Last year, he asked Niagara residents for help since Guatemalan farmers had little except homemade hoes. They needed hammers and saws in particular. Obdeyn received more than

2,000 tools in scores of tool boxes drawn from basements, garages and sheds across the region.

Anyone with a level can call Obdeyn at 905-852-4721.

For more information about Wells of Hope, its projects and funding needs see www.wells-of-hope.com.

OPENING WEEKEND

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& The Trilliums

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St. Catharines

All Pelham volunteers are precious

DAVE AUGUSTYN
 For Pelham News

Sometimes in our fast-paced society, we neglect to honour and thank those people that do something special. And, yet, those who volunteer in our community make a conscious choice to give of their time and talents to improve our community.

When you volunteer, you make a conscience choice and, I believe, carry out a sacred act of giving of yourself. This goes for the many coaches and conveners of the various sports in Pelham and for members of the town's outstanding service clubs. It's the same with the specially appointed members of town committees like those who volunteer on the library board, the

active transportation committee, the beautification committee, and the mayor's youth advisory council.

It's a similar commitment from those people involved in community based endeavours such as the farmers' market committee, the bandshell committee, the Pelham Art Festival committee, Pelham Horticultural Society, the supermarket committee, and the hundreds of other volunteers in our community.

That's why hosting the town's annual volunteer and community corporate recognition ceremony — such as council and I did last Wednesday — is one of our favourite events. It's when we recognize the dedication and hard work of hundreds of Pelham's volunteers.

We presented the Peer Award as a special

way of recognizing outstanding individuals. Each community-based group or organization in Pelham nominated one of the most exemplary volunteers from among their group of exceptional volunteers.

We offered our deep appreciation and congratulations to each of the Peer Award recipients: Barb Matthei, Fonthill & District Kinette Club; Anne Durst, Pelham Farmers' Market; Maria McMillan, Pelham Historical Society; Brian Iggulden, Fonthill & District Kinsmen Club; Enid Gutcke, Fonthill Lionsess Club; John Mills, Fonthill Lions Club; Marisa Battista, mayor's youth advisory council; Cora Ann MacKinnon, Niagara Centre Skating Club; Bill Gibson, Pelham Active Transportation committee; John Swart, Pelham Art Festival; Sue Kicul, Pelham Cares; Gail Hilyer, Pelham seniors advisory commit-

tee; Stuart MacPherson, Pelham Soccer Club; Robert Eamer, Rotary Club of Fonthill; Claire Rochette, Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary; Jake Dilis, Royal Canadian Legion.

We also honoured our corporate citizens — those businesses that give money, resources, product to all facets of our community. We especially honoured the Fonthill Sobseys with a Corporate Peer Award for its generosity to so many charities and commitment to improving our town.

I offer deep thanks to each of the town's volunteers and corporate citizens for giving of themselves to help other people and to make Pelham a vibrant, creative and caring community for all.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

Shipwrecks — James Carruthers

SKIP GILLHAM
 For Postmedia Network

Early next week will mark the 102nd anniversary of the Great Storm of 1913.

Among the many casualties of that epic disaster was the Canadian bulk carrier *James Carruthers*. It was lost with all hands and remains one of the few hulls from that storm that wreck hunters have been unable to locate.

The *James Carruthers* was a new ship. It had been built at Collingwood and entered service on June 18, 1913, for St. Lawrence & Chicago Steam Navigation Co. The 167.64-metre-long freighter was too large for the existing Welland Canal and spent its time carrying grain and coal on the upper four Great Lakes.

The ship departed Fort William on Nov. 6 with a load of grain for Midland. It passed through the Soo Locks, down the St. Mary's River and simply disappeared during what is considered the worst storm to sweep the Great Lakes.

Some speculate that the vessel was overwhelmed while making the turn to Georgian Bay. But no one really knows and, until the hull is located, there are more questions than answers. A total of 25 sailors perished somewhere out on the lake.

On the 100th anniversary of the loss, a sculpture was unveiled in a ceremony at Goderich depicting the sinking of the *James Carruthers*.



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A sculpture of the *James Carruthers* is shown at Goderich in this November 2013 photo by Roger LeLievre.

■ COMMUNITY: Pelham beautification

Local gardens admired at Trillium awards

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

The beautification of Pelham was celebrated Oct. 21 with the Trillium Garden Awards event at Lookout Point Country Club.

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn, along with town councillors attended the awards to show support for the community. Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybiak has recently been assigned to the town's newly formed beautification committee.

"Within the next few months the committee will provide advice to council on how the town can continue, in addition to the Trilliums," Rybiak said at the event.

Rybiak would like to continue initiatives including the local Christmas lights competition and the garden tour.

The awards celebrate home owners and businesses that design and maintain a beautiful garden landscape. Gardens are cre-

ated at the beginning of the summer. Appointed judges choose the community's best gardens near the end of July.

Photos were taken of the winning gardens and displayed during the awards ceremony.

Greta Hildebrand, a member of the Trillium Garden Awards committee, said the honours allow people to get involved in the community and feel a sense of pride. She said it improves

the value of the community when people are trying to create beautiful gardens.

First place winners of the Residential Large category were Marlene and Stephen Webber of 6 Rhodes Ct. in Fonthill. The house is on a large corner property. The garden has taken four years to create to said the Webber's gardener, Christine St. Denis.

Second place was won by William and Lynn Debrun of 2200 Cream St. in Rid-

geville. Their garden was recognized for having diverse trees.

Rashida Wilkinson, owner of Salon Laxmi on Pelham Street in Fonthill, won second prize for the commercial-institutional category. During the awards ceremony she said credit needed to be given to her watering can.

Gardens are judged based on their creativity and design. Hildebrand said judges look at how well

colours work well together, if the garden is well maintained, and choice of garden. She said it's important to make sure plants used go well with building architecture.

Her advice for next years competitors is to start early. "Get your garden looking its very best."

If anyone is interested in putting their garden up to judging next year, contact the beautification committee at 905-892-2607.

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Michael Mann

Michael is a member of the corporate-commercial team at Lancaster, Brooks & Welch, where he provides advice regarding the various methods of carrying on a business. He assists in the incorporation and organization of companies and drafts security agreements, shareholder agreements, leases, franchise agreements and other documents of a corporate or commercial nature for clients. Michael also provides services as a registered trademark agent.



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Niagara Region Health & Wellness Expo

Saturday November 14th at the Croatian National Hall
from 9 am to 5 pm • located at 6 Broadway Ave. in Welland

Get ready for it... it's the **Niagara Region Health & Wellness Expo**. This one day event scheduled for Saturday November 14th at the Croatian National Hall... will feature a sensational line-up of renowned natural health experts... presenting information about health issues, natural therapies and remedial.

The 2015 Niagara Region Health & Wellness Expo presenters include:

- 10:00 am - Dr. Kate Rhième-Bleue - Stronger Bones and a Healthier Heart
- 11:30 am - Dr. Marita Schauch - Stress and the Disease Connection
- 1:00 pm - Brenda Watson - Cleansing - Be Your Best!
- 2:30 pm - Dr. Zoltan Rona - Supplements for Longevity

Plus there will be demos, discounts, **FREE samples**, health info and gifts from the numerous exhibitors... including local natural health practitioners and natural health suppliers. This is the natural health event of the year! For more information about this event, visit **Rosemary's Natural Choices** or call us at 905-714-0586. Last year's expo was standing room only!

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Do you know the Depression... you are what you eat? It's because your digestive system plays such a vital role in helping you stay healthy. Or in many cases... not. Poor digestion adversely affects your health in so many different and unhealthy ways.

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We are pleased to announce that Bio-K+ will be joining us with **FREE** samples at the Health & Wellness Expo on November 14th at the Croatian National Hall.

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*Sale ends November 30**



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PenFinancial invests in college students

PenFinancial Credit Union, which recently established a

new scholarship at Brock University, is also investing in the futures of Niagara College students.

The credit union presented a \$25,000 donation to the college to start a scholarship to support community-minded students who hail from the region.

A total of \$5,000 in PenFinancial Credit Union Scholarships will be awarded annually. The \$1,000 scholarships will be presented at the start

of all three annual terms — fall, winter, spring — to a student from a Niagara high school entering any college post-secondary or graduate program.

The scholarship is aimed at students who are active volunteers. A minimum 75 per cent grade average must be held by recipients.

The first PenFinancial Credit Union Scholarship will be presented for a college student in January.

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Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena – Drop-ins Welcome!

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Tuesday, November 10	7:00 – 8:00 pm
Wednesday, November 11	7:30 – 8:30 pm
Thursday, November 12	10:00-11:00 am

Arena Programs

Walking Club - Everyone Welcome!

Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am.
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Let Us Forget

On November 11, as the nation remembers, we honour those who sacrificed in order to preserve our freedoms and rights. Council thanks our veterans for their actions, courage, strength, determination and bravery.

Mayor Dave Augustyn & Town Council

Town of Pelham • 905.892.2607 • www.pelham.ca



CHRISTMAS IN PELHAM

November 4, 2015 – January 3, 2016



Get ready for the holidays. Check out these great upcoming events around Town and watch for more next week!

November 11 (6pm): Wreaths of Wisdom – Pelham Public Library (Fonthill). \$30, please register.

November 14 (10am to 3pm): Homes for Holiday House Tour - 6 locations in Fonthill. Tickets available at Fonthill United Church (42 Church Hill, 905-892-6433), \$20.00.

November 14 (11am to 3pm): Holiday Shopping Spree - Royal Canadian Legion, 141 Highway 20 East, Fonthill. Presented by the Fonthill Lioness featuring Bake table, Craft table, Vendors, Gift Basket Draw & a Light Lunch.

Visit pelham.ca/christmas-in-pelham for full details.

■ **POLITICS:** Discussions to bring year-round train service to Niagara continue

Wynne 'pretty optimistic' about GO

RAY SPITERI

Postmedia Network

Premier Kathleen Wynne says she's optimistic about the possibility of extending GO train service in Niagara.

"I'm pretty optimistic about us being able to work on this project," she told reporters during a news conference last Thursday.

"I think that it's something that would be good for the region, but we've got to have the resources to do it, and we've got to continue to work with officials to do it in the best way possible."

Those resources, said Wynne, could come from continuing to "do the things that we've embarked upon," including the controversial decision to sell off the majority of Hydro One.

"It's really important to understand that projects like the GO train to Niagara, or the increased service, because there is a seasonal train to Niagara at this point, that's the kind of project that we won't be able to do unless we actually have more resources

rather than fewer. We need more investment in infrastructure," she said.

"So we're going to continue to do the things that we've embarked upon, so the broadening of the ownership of Hydro One, for example, we know that the investments that we'll be able to make will foster economic growth, and will allow us to be competitive. But we won't be able to make those investments if we don't have the resources."

Some worry the 60 per cent sell off of Hydro One could drive up the provincial debt and hurt the province in the long term.

But Wynne, who spoke to delegates during the Ontario Economic Summit in Niagara-on-the-Lake, said Ontario would get \$4 billion in return from the sale, which could be spent on transit and other infrastructure projects, while the province would retain control over major hydro decisions.

The majority Ontario Liberal government has committed to spend \$130 billion dur-



BOB TINCZEWSKY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said she is optimistic about the ongoing work being done between Niagara and provincial officials to bring year-round GO train service to the region.

ing the next 10 years on infrastructure across the province. It's the largest infrastructure investment in Ontario's history.

Meanwhile, the recently elected majority federal Liberal government has promised to make the largest new infrastructure investment in Canadian history, by nearly doubling spending to \$125 billion, from the current \$65 billion, during the next decade.

Wynne and Justin Trudeau

met last Wednesday, with part of their discussion about infrastructure.

"I didn't discuss specific projects with prime minister designate Trudeau, but we certainly talked about infrastructure," she said during the news conference after her summit appearance at White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa.

Wynne said Niagara and provincial officials continue to work on the Niagara GO file.

Niagara politicians are persistent in their efforts to get the provincial government on board with its business case, which it presented to Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca in April. It calls for regular, daily GO trains to Niagara Falls, with stops in St. Catharines and Grimsby linking to Hamilton and Toronto.

It has been one year since Niagara and its 12 area municipalities met with Wynne during last year's summit.

At that time, Wynne directed Niagara to work with Del Duca, the Ministry of Transportation and Metrolinx to create a compelling case for GO rail expansion in Niagara.

Niagara officials believe the business case is proof Niagara has accomplished that task.

"It's certainly an issue that is on the books, and I understand that some of the problems have been solved in terms of (the canal crossing), so we'll continue to work with Niagara officials," said Wynne.

"I know it's something that... community leaders, including members of the legislature, feel is very important."

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said "optimism" is the word of the day when it comes to GO in Niagara.

"I believe we're just about at the finish line. All the heavy lifting has been done," he said. "Now we're waiting for it to be an announcement, and that's in the premier's control."

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■ **NATURE**

Short Hills to close for deer hunt

Postmedia Network

Short Hills Provincial Park will host the aboriginal deer hunt again this year for two weekends this month.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry announced the park will be closed to the public during the hunt on Nov. 14 and 15 and again on Nov. 28 and 29.

The hunt will begin a half hour before sunrise until a half hour after sunset each of those days.

The ministry said the deer hunt is a traditional activity recognized through aboriginal and treaty rights and gives aboriginal hunters the opportunity to harvest deer for food.

Three hunts have taken place at Short Hills since January 2013 and all have attracted protests.

Residents raised concerns at Niagara Region council on Oct. 1, asking that safety protocols during the hunt be reviewed and enforced.

Those concerns included people entering the park while the hunt is ongoing, hunters breaching designated hunting zones and the number of hunters allowed within the park at one time.

The ministry said in a statement last week that aboriginal hunters will use archery equipment and will follow a mandatory safety protocol.

The hunt will happen in the south end of the park, with the least amount of development and trails.

Park staff will monitor access points to alert the public the park is closed for their safety.

LOCAL NEWS

■ **NIAGARA COLLEGE:** Ceremony sees almost 800 students cross stage

Almost 800 college graduates at fall convocation

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

It was an opportunity to take a break from the rigours of work to reconnect with friends and celebrate accomplishments.

Last Friday, nearly 800 Niagara College graduates walked across the stage and received their diplomas at the community college's fall convocation.

Winery and viticulture technician graduate Christian Scagnetti said the ceremony was a nice reminder of where he came from.

"It takes you back a bit I think. It brings you back to school, back to friends that you probably haven't seen

... like I haven't seen some of these friends for a good few months now," Scagnetti said. "And it's nice to remind yourself where you've got your education, where you've sort of met all the people so it's a nice little break between the chaos that is harvest."

Scagnetti, 27, has been working full time at one of the region's wineries since leaving school in the spring. He said he's not the only one in that position.

"Our program has a really high employment rate and part of that's due to the practicals. So basically once you're done classes, most people are straight into or already have been working while they're in school so it's a really good program like that," Scagnetti said.

Scagnetti, originally from Timmins, said he put a lot of effort to get where he is today. He didn't know much about wine before joining the pro-



PHOTOS BY FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Graduates line up to be seated at Niagara College during fall convocation Friday in Welland.

gram.

"My time here I was basically coming from a non-wine background, so I felt that I had to put a lot into this program, and it's definitely one of the programs that you get as much out of it as you put into it and since I put a lot of my time and effort into it, I felt it was a really, really rewarding program," he said.

Scagnetti said that he is happy that he is able to apply the skills he honed at the college to his job.

"I've learned a lot and now it's actually helping me so much in the working world where I'm in a harvest right now, where I'm learning a different style of wine than I've ever done before, and it's exciting," he said.

Of working in the wine industry, Scagnetti said, "It's fun to go into work and work with grapes and make something you know at the end of the day somebody somewhere else is going to really

enjoy."

Scagnetti was one of almost 800 graduating students from the schools of academic and liberal studies, allied health studies, business and management studies, continuing education, English language studies, environmental and horticultural studies, food and wine studies, hospitality, tourism and sport, justice and fitness studies, nursing and personal support worker studies and trades.

Grads, their families and friends packed into the Athletic Centre at the college's main campus in Welland for the ceremony, which featured

a convocation address delivered by Niagara Health System president Dr. Suzanne Johnston.

Johnston also received an honorary diploma in health sciences.

During her address, Johnston highlighted the importance of finding happiness through what they do.

"I actually think that all of us have the capacity to be masters of happiness in our own lives. A very simple equation for this — and a secret that nobody else knows that you will leave here today with for a no fee whatsoever — gratitude plus genius equals



Richard Brown
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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"Selling Throughout Niagara"



Dr. Suzanne Johnston gives the convocation address at Niagara College during fall convocation Friday in Welland.

happiness," Johnston said. The genius, Johnston said, isn't something people either have or don't have, but something that is achieved through practice.

"We all have the ability, through hard work and con-

centrating on and practising what we are good at, to develop our personal genius. It is within our power to do so," she said.

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LOCAL NEWS

HEALTH CARE

NHS posting ER wait times online

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

It's happened to nearly everyone at one point or another — you show up at an emergency room seeking medical help, only to wait for hours at a time.

How long that wait will be has always been something of a mystery. Depending on how many patients are already in the queue and how serious your case is compared to others, you may see a doctor in minutes or hours.

A new Niagara Health System initiative is aiming to better inform patients of what kind of wait they may be in for. All NHS emergency departments and urgent care centres are now post-

ing their wait times online.

Using a system developed by Oculy's Health Informatics first used at a Kitchener hospital, the NHS website is updated every 20 minutes to provide as close to real time information as possible, said Derek McNally, NHS executive vice-president of clinical services.

"This is happening as part of the NHS continuing moves toward become more transparent and more accountable," McNally said.

The website shows the current average wait time for patients as each of the ERs and urgent care centres, the number of people currently being treated and the

number currently waiting.

Aside from helping inform patients, the Oculy's system also helps the NHS manage patient flow in the ERs, McNally said.

He when the system was launched in Kitchener, there were some significant outcomes. The most notable was there were fewer non-urgent cases presenting at the ER, which helps reduce wait times.

Historically, ERs can become backlogged by cases that are better suited for urgent care centres, which handle less serious medical problems and generally have shorter wait times.

Late last Tuesday afternoon, for example, the NHS website

showed a the average wait time at the St. Catharines ER was 3.5 hours, with 35 patients waiting and another 37 being treated. The wait times at the urgent care centres in Fort Erie and Port Colborne were 30 minutes and 1.5 hours respectively.

ively.

To see the NHS wait times go to www.niagarahospital.ca/educswaittimes.

grant.lafleche@postmedia.ca
Twitter: @grantrants



JULIE JOSSAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A screen mounted on the wall displays approximate wait times in the ER of the St. Catharines Hospital on Tuesday. Beginning today, current Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centre wait times and other information about usage are available on Niagara Health System's website.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEALTH CARE:** Retired police officer 'looking forward to leading the foundation'

Falls resident named OneFoundation chairman

RAY SPITERI

Postmedia Network

One of Joe Maggilo's goals as new chairman of Niagara Health System's fundraising team will be to continue educating the public about how vital its support will be to ensuring strong hospital care.

The Niagara Falls resident said many people in the community do not realize the provincial government does not pay for hospital equipment. While Queen's Park funds bricks, mortar and the day-to-day operations of hospitals, everything else that goes into hospitals comes from the pockets of donors.



JOE MAGGILLO

"The equipment needs are to be met by us in the community," said Maggilo. "Part of my job will be to let everyone know that fact, that this is our community, that these are our hospitals, and here's why we need to support them."

OneFoundation, a volunteer board of directors assembled from all corners of Niagara to raise money in support of all NHS hospitals, has appointed Maggilo as incoming chair. He was welcomed at the foundation's annual general meeting Oct. 22 by outgoing chair Mike Watt.

Maggilo is a retired police officer. He last served as staff sergeant with Niagara Regional

Police, where he spent the last 22 years of his 37-year policing career.

He said he developed an interest for supporting his community on many fronts, and is passionate about fundraising for local health-care services.

"After policing for years in Niagara and calling it home for the last two decades, I care about the health and well-being of this community," said Maggilo.

"In recent years, we have seen incredible advancements at our hospitals that have been backed by many generous donors who have championed health care in our region."

"Building on this success, I'm looking forward to leading the foundation as we part-

ONEFOUNDATION'S 2015-16 BOARD

Executive

Chair: Joe Maggilo
Past chair: Mike Watt
1st vice chair: Cindy Thorpe
2nd vice chair: Gord Statham
Treasurer: Al Whitehead
Secretary: Brad Johnstone

Directors

Anne Atkinson
Roland Giguere
Jim Miller
Tom Mountain
Carmela Rulli
Sarah Vazquez
Deborah Zahra

ner with new and long-standing donors to help keep our hospitals equipped to provide first-rate care."

Prior to joining the OneFoundation board in 2014, Maggilo served as executive board member for Greater Niagara General Hospital Foundation from 2007 to 2014.

His community involve-

ment also includes appointments with the Order Sons of Italy Canada, serving as Club Italia's president and holding positions of national trustee and national orator for the Order's National Grand Council.

He was also co-chair of the Motorcycle Ride for Dad's Niagara Chapter from 2010-13 to help raise money and

awareness for prostate cancer care.

Maggilo succeeds Watt, who is executive vice-president at Walker Industries. Watt served as OneFoundation's board chairman for nearly two years. He will continue on as past chair.

The OneFoundation board said Watt's leadership was "instrumental" in setting the foundation during a time of change, as the local hospital foundations supporting the NHS amalgamated.

The board said they're "grateful" Watt is staying on.

OneFoundation's board is comprised of volunteer business and community leaders from across Niagara.

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LOCAL NEWS

NIAGARA 2041

Fostering an Environment for Economic Prosperity

Get Involved in Niagara's Future: Attend a Public Information Centre

In the next 25 years, Niagara is expected to grow, bringing a possible 168,000 new residents and 80,000 new jobs to the region.

Niagara Region is making sure we're prepared for this growth through three projects that will help us plan where and how that growth will occur, and how it will be accommodated.



HOW WE GROW:

The Municipal Comprehensive Review will look at the land we have available across Niagara, and will ensure we have enough to sustain our expected growth to the year 2041. It will also examine how that land is distributed throughout Niagara.



HOW WE FLOW:

The Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan will ensure Niagara has the infrastructure to provide critical water and wastewater services to our growing region in a sustainable and financially responsible way.



HOW WE GO:

The Transportation Master Plan will look at how we currently travel in and around Niagara and how we can improve our transportation systems, including options for walking, cycling and public transit, to better serve Niagara's future needs.

GET INVOLVED:

Residents are invited to attend a Public Information Centre to learn how each of these projects contribute to Niagara's overall growth plan for the next 25 years, and how you can have your voice heard.

Nov. 17, 2015

Town of Grimsby
Council Chambers
1-60 Livingston Ave.
4 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 18, 2015

City of Port Colborne
Vale Health & Wellness Centre
550 Elizabeth St.
4 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 19, 2015

City of St. Catharines
Kivanas Aquatic Centre
425 Carlton St.
4 - 8 p.m.

There is an opportunity at any time during this process for interested persons to bring comments and concerns to the attention of the project managers, and to review outstanding issues. If you have any questions or comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact us:

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

HOW WE GROW

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HOW WE FLOW

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HOW WE GO

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The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A.2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011). The Master Plan will be filed under Approach #2 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A+ and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.

Fonthill artist featured in Welland



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Fonthill artist Toyte Chanpen Hayes has her talents displayed on the Welland Wall of Art at Welland Civic Square until Dec. 23. Her paintings combine elements of Thai art and culture with Canada's environment. Her creativity stems from her own study in art and advice from experienced artists, as evidenced in her painting Artistic Adventure. For more information about the wall, call 905-732-2455 or 905-732-2840 or e-mail diannakiltmet@sympatico.ca.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUSIC:** Ashlynnne Vince makes short-list ballot in Hot Adult Contemporary category

Welland teen in the running for a Grammy

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Ashlynnne Vince was anxiously preparing for a job interview on a recent Monday morning.

Just like many typical teenagers, the 18-year-old Welland resident was hoping to land a job at a restaurant to bring in a little extra cash.

While the Welland Centennial Secondary School graduate is an average teenager in many ways, there's one aspect of her life that sets her apart. There aren't many typical teenagers in the running for a Grammy Award in the hot adult contemporary category.

Her song *Hold On To Love* has made the short-list ballot for the top musical award offered in the United States,

one of about 300 songs selected out of 21,000 entries.

She said her Nashville music producer, Tony Mantor, from independent label Pleasau Music, shared the news earlier in October.

"It was exciting," she said. Vince, however, said she doesn't expect to win. She is now competing against "all the big names," she said, referring to well-known musical celebrities.

In comparison, "I'm just starting," she said. "I'm just building my name."

And there's a long way to go before the Grammy Awards are handed out Feb. 8 at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

She said the list of 300 entries on the ballot will be reduced to about 150 nominees. The winners in each



of 30 categories will then be selected during the awards gala in February.

But even reaching the level she has exceeded her expectations.

"It's still amazing," she said. While she doesn't expect to win, Vince didn't expect two

of her songs to make it to the Billboard's Mainstream Top 40 Indicator Charts either.

Her song *Hands Off* spent eight straight weeks on the list of songs receiving most airplay on U.S. radio stations, reaching No. 35 at its peak, and earlier this year, *Hold On To Love*,

was on the list for selected weeks, peaking at No. 38.

She said the success her music has garnered is surprising, although "you hope for the best."

"You never know with music," she said, adding it's a very competitive market.

ALLAN BENNER/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK

Ashlynnne Vince, 18, is in the running for a Grammy Award, although she has a long way to go before the award winners are selected.

Vince is continuing to write and record songs for her next CD, which she hopes to release next year, having recently returned from a trip to Nashville.

While her music is quickly gaining attention, Vince said has yet to earn much money as a result.

Right now, she said her passion for music is costing her more than it's earning for her.

"Right now it's very expensive, and I need help," Vince said, adding she's looking for sponsors as well as contributing any money she can.

"I have a lot of good people behind me, and especially the support from my family. It helps a lot," she said.

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BARBOUTY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Fonthill Lions held their half-and-half Draw on Oct. 17. Here Lion Fred Arbour, left, and Lion Brian Buchanan are shown presenting a cheque for \$3,188 to the winner, Eric Ethier from Welland.



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■ RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY

Niagarans asked to pay it forward Nov. 6

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

Students will rake leaves for unsuspecting seniors. Staff will hand out healthy snacks on campus. And positive, unexpected messages in chalk will dot Brock University's grounds.

It's all part of Random Act of Kindness Day this Friday, when Niagara celebrates being kind to others.

The university and Niagara College will participate

in the annual event along with schools, organizations and individuals across the region.

"It's a good opportunity to celebrate a sense of community in Niagara and on campus," said Kristen Smith, Brock University manager of student and community outreach.

It's the sixth year the Niagara Community Foundation has held the initiative.

JoAnne Krick, the foundation's community initiatives

manager, said participation has grown since the first year and they've been getting calls from individuals and groups who want to get involved.

"The momentum builds every year. So many groups are doing amazing things in their neighbourhoods," she said.

In the past, a day-care centre made art for seniors homes and an elementary school created a "kindness quilt" asking students to write something nice about

each of their classmates. The YMCA handed out hot chocolate on a cold morning and individuals bought strangers drinks in drive-thru lines.

"Niagara is always a very kind community. Random Act of Kindness Day is a way to celebrate kindness," she said.

The foundation provides cards for participants to give to recipients when they commit a random act of kindness, asking them to pay it forward.

While there's no way to measure how many people participate in the initiative because one card can pass through multiple hands, the foundation prints 75,000 of them.

Residents are asked to share their acts of kindness on Facebook or Twitter

What: Random Act of Kindness Day

When: Friday, all day

Where: Everywhere in Niagara

How to get involved: Do something nice for someone. Give them an RAK card, available free from any Meridian Credit Union branch.

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Twitter: #rakdayniagara

on Friday with the hashtag #RAKDayNiagara.

"Kindness is contagious,"

Krick said.

"It's such a good feeling. It

doesn't have to cost a thing.

It helps us build community."

Niagara College community engagement co-ordinator Jeff Sinclair said teams of students at each campus will be planning Random Act of

Kindness Day activities.

"We try to get people to do things that are free, because it doesn't cost money to do kind things," he said.

Last year, for instance, the college's international students posted kind thoughts in their native languages on campus. Sinclair said that created an opportunity for students to engage with each other.

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■ THOROLD COMMUNITY THEATRE



JEN HARDY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Actors Rob Goslin, Ryan Lunn, Lily Groulx, Lou Bradley, George Doros and Krissy Neumann perform in Thorold Community Theatre's production of *Money Matters*, which opens Friday.



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Money Matters for the characters of Monet Manor

JEN HARDY
For Postmedia Network

What will happen when Monet Manor is bequeathed to a stranger, instead of the mother-daughter team that has taken care of the estate for the past 10 years?

The answer, and other hilarious scenarios, will be played out by Thorold Community Theatre in *Money Matters*, written by Michael and Susan Parker.

Opening night is Friday.

Director John Dickhout and his six actors have been rehearsing for the better part of the past month.

It is Dickhout's first play as a director. He usually shares the stage with the other actors, but because of a health condition he decided, after much encouragement by Lou Bradley, to get comfortable in the director's chair.

"The play is about ordinary people finding themselves in extraordinary situations," Dickhout said, adding that's part of the play's charm for him.

Bradley said the characters in the play were an important factor for her. She portrays Marilena Contessa de Buzeau Si Severin, a Romanian resident of Monet Manor.

Money Matters is the 15th play for Rob Goslin, who portrays George Seville.

For Lily Groulx, who plays Charmaine, and George Doros, who plays Bud Davis, it is the first time on the stage at Trinity United Church in Thorold.

Krissy Neumann plays Annie Seville and finds herself in a couple of situations with Ryan Lunn's character, Bernard Oppenheimer.

Tickets for *Money Matters* are \$15 and are available at: The Pie Man, Haine Funeral Home & Chapel, jurman Law Office, Garden City Cat Hospital and Jack Nash Fine Clothiers.

Performances are in the church's Community Hall at 15 Pine St. S.

Showtimes are on Fridays (Nov. 6, 13 and 20) at 8 p.m., Saturdays (Nov. 7, 14 and 21) at 8 p.m., and Sundays (Nov. 8 and 15) at 2 p.m.

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■ **AWARDS:** Port Colborne entertainer gaining attention

Crawford nominated comedian of the year

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Joe Crawford doesn't know who nominated him or why he was nominated, but he's not complaining.

The Port Colborne resident is in the running for two accolades at the fifth annual Artists Music Guild Heritage Awards Nov. 14 in Monroe, N.C.

Crawford was one of three people nominated as best radio personality for a show he broadcasts over the Internet each Wednesday, and for the second year straight he was nominated for the comedian of the year award. He's one of five people vying for top comedian accolade.

But Crawford, who called the nominations "a huge honour," said he was surprised when he learned he was a nominee for the prestigious awards because he has been many years since he performed south of the border.

"I always perform all across Canada, but never down

there," he said.

Crawford suspects his online radio show, as well as online presence, must have garnered a significant audience south of the border, leading to the nominations.

Crawford said the awards gala "is very huge."

"They have tons of celebrities that go there, and this year at the awards show Dee Dee Sharp, Martha Reeves, Mallory Lewis with Lamb Chop, Bucky Covington, and Chubby Checker is also going to be there," he said.

Crawford has been entertaining audiences for about 15 years, gaining recognition for his onstage antics such as imitating such divas as Dolly Parton using balloons to fill out a red dress he wears and Tina Turner wearing "a special purple short mini-skirt."

Between parodies of famous singers, Crawford said he does tell "jokes that I write and tell funny stories."

His radio show has also brought in a surprising

number of big name celebrities such as Tim Conway, Bobbie Vinton, The Village People, Joan Rivers and "tons and tons of people."

"For a little town boy — or man now I guess — not affiliated with a major network ... I'm still get the talent that I'm getting on my shows," he said. "It just boosts my mind. This goes to show no matter what you do and how persistent you are, if you work hard enough it's going to pay off."

He said he has managed to arrange interviews with celebrities by working with the two casinos in Niagara Falls to interview entertainers scheduled to perform there.

Upcoming celebrity interviews include with Kenny Rogers and Jerry Springer.

After years of imitating Parton, Crawford will be interviewing the real country singer for his radio show, too.

His interview with Parton will be broadcast Nov. 25 from 9-10 p.m. Listeners can tune in through Crawford's website



SUPPLIED PHOTO

For the second year in a row, Port Colborne comedian Joe Crawford has been nominated as comedian of the year in a U.S. awards gala.

www.joecrawfordlive.com.

"I'm just flabbergasted that I'm getting these names," he said.

While his career as an enter-

tainer is picking up steam, he hasn't started earning enough income to quit his jobs.

"I don't do this full time, even though it feels like it," he

said.

In addition to the time dedicated to making people laugh, Crawford works for Port Colborne's Wainfleet Community Living as well as teaching piano and vocals. He is also an organist and choir director at a church in Fort Erie.

But Crawford hopes that may be changing as he gains attention as an entertainer.

"To get recognition on more of a national level during the Heritage Awards, viewed by 32 million people across the United States and in Canada, to have that exposure it's slowly getting there," he said.

Crawford hopes to fare better at this year's Heritage Awards than he did in 2014.

"Last year when I went, I lost against a ventriloquist and a dummy," he said, laughing. "But that's not a big deal. It was nice just going down there and being nominated for something as prestigious as that."

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Vegetation Clearing Notice for Transmission Line For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN LP

Project Name Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")

Project Location Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Halldimand County in Southern Ontario

Notice Dated At Halldimand County and Niagara Region, the 28 of October 2015.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), is planning to engage in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014.

Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Halldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

Commencement of Vegetation Trimming and Clearing for Transmission Line Infrastructure

In order to build the transmission line, vegetation in the right of way must be trimmed or cleared as per the Electrical Safety Authority guidelines and the municipal standards for trimming and clearing.

The vegetation trimming and clearing in the right of way will occur on the following roads: Creek Road, Sideroad 42, Concession Road 6, Shafley Road, Highway 3, Wainfleet Dunnville Townline Road, Mountainview Road, Walker

Road, Fly Road, Mud Street, Thirty Road, Young Street, South Grimsby Road 5, Regional Road 20, South Grimsby Road 6, Smithville Road, Tober Road, Sixteen Road, Port Davidson Road, Concession Road 4, and Canborough Road.

The trimming or clearing in the right of way is scheduled to begin the week of November 9, 2015 and will last for a total of eight weeks.

Every effort will be made to limit disruption and minimize any inconveniences to residents.

For further information about the Niagara Region Wind Farm, please visit the project website at: www.nrwsc.ca

Project Contact Information Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the vegetation trimming or clearing, please contact:



PROJECT CONTACT

Shiloh Berriman
Email: shiloh.berriman@enrconrnc.ca
Cell: 289-683-2563

CONTRACTOR CONTACT

John Niro
Email: jniro@eptcon.com
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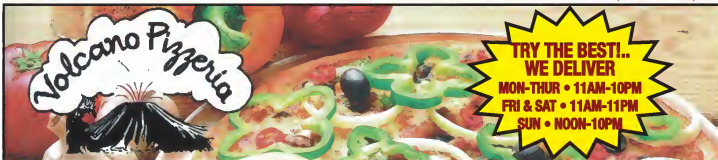
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